

Records Committee, Iowa Ornithologists' Union

Printed: 11/20/00

Black-legged Kittiwake

Record Number: 95-53

19 Nov 1995

Classification: A-D

Saylorville Res., Polk Co., IA

*Stephen J. Dinsmore, *Jim Dinsmore

IBL 66:22, 96

DOCUMENTATION

Stephen J. Dinsmore, 4024 Arkansas Dr., Ames 50014 [3/24/96]

Jim Dinsmore, 4024 Arkansas Dr., Ames 50014

REFERENCES

Field Reports: IBL 66:22

Records Committee: IBL 66:96

VOTE: 7 A-D

95-53

DOCUMENTATION FORM

Species: Black-legged Kittiwake
Number: 1 first-basic
Location: Saylorville Res., Polk Co.
Habitat: large lake
Date: 19 November 1995
Time: approx. 9:00-9:45 a.m.
Observer: Stephen J. Dinsmore 4024 Arkansas Dr. Ames, IA 50014
Others who saw bird: Jim Dinsmore, m.ob.

Description of bird(s): I was scanning through a large flock of gulls above the dam when I noticed two Franklin's Gulls resting with a third bird which I recognized as a first-basic Black-legged Kittiwake. The bird was slightly larger than a Franklin's Gull. The bill was short, black, and straight. The head was white except for a dark eye and a small black spot directly behind the eye. A narrow black band extended across the back of the neck (a half-collar). The underparts were white. The mantle was pale gray. In flight, the wing pattern was as follows: narrow black bar across the secondary coverts, outermost primaries black, inner primaries white, remainder of upperwing pale gray (same color as mantle). Underwings white. Tail was also white, slightly forked, and had a narrow black terminal band. Legs black. Based on the wing pattern and other features, I aged the bird as first-basic. I showed the bird to several others who were present at the time.

Similar species and how eliminated: The size, striking wing and tail patterns, black half-collar, and dark bill and legs are distinctive of this species.

Viewing conditions and equipment: Viewing conditions were excellent with the sun behind us. Estimated viewing distance was 300m. I used a 20-60x spotting scope.

Previous experience with species: I have seen several previously in Iowa, plus hundreds in the western Atlantic Ocean off Massachusetts and North Carolina.

References consulted: none

How long before field notes made: none made

How long before this form completed: written 20 November 1995

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DOCUMENTATION FORM

Species Black-legged Kittiwake **How many?** one

Location? Saylorville Reservoir

Type of habitat? open lake

When? date(s): 19 Nov 1995 **Time:** .not noted, about 9 a.m.

Who? your name and address Jim Dinsmore

4024 Arkansas Drive, Ames, IA 50014

Others with you Steve Dinsmore, Bery Engebretesen, Bob Myers,
Pam and Reid Allen, Dennis Thompson, Meridel Jackson

Others before and after you ??

Describe the bird(s) including only what you observed. Include size, shape, details of all parts (bill, head, neck, back, wing, tail, throat, breast, belly, under tail, legs, feet). Also describe voice and behavior.

medium sized gull, somewhat larger than Franklin's Gull which was next to it. Basically gray above and white below. When bird turned so it could be viewed from side, dark gray bar on back of neck clearly visible. I did not see any dark spot behind eye. When in flight, wing bars also clearly visible. In flight, was chased by Ring-billed Gulls and was somewhat smaller than them.

Similar species and how eliminated: Bonaparte's Gull-this bird was bigger than Bonaparte's Gull and presence of bar on back of neck would eliminate it.

Did any one disagree or have reservations about identification?

If yes, explain: No

Viewing conditions: lighting, distance (how measured), and optical equipment: Clear, calm bright day, great light behind us. Watched from several hundred yards with 20-45 spotting scope

Previous experience with this species and similar ones:

Have seen several kittiwakes in Iowa and Massachusetts

References and persons consulted before writing description:

Looked at Robbins field guide

How long before this form completed? next morning